

Communal violence in Orissa

165. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Christian families in Orissa are badly hit by the recent outbreak of communal violence and hiding in the nearby jungles and hills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted a spot assessment of violence against Christians; and

(d) if so, the details of the assessment reports and immediate action Government has taken to prevent such communal violence in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The State Government has reported that about 40 Christian families of Barakhama and Baliguda area and about 400 people from Kattingia and Tiarigram, who earlier fled from their homes during the recent communal violence, have since returned to their villages.

(c) and (d) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects as per the Constitution of India, the State Governments are primarily responsible for maintenance of law and order. The Government of Orissa has ordered a judicial probe headed by Hon'ble Justice Sri Basudev Panigrahi, Retired Judge of Orissa High Court to inquire into the incidents.

The Union Government has assisted the Government of Orissa to prevent and control the communal violence by sending advisories on 24.12.2007, 25.12.2007 and 15.2.2008. On the specific request of the State Government, seven companies of CRPF and RAF were provided. Further, the Union Home Minister visited some of the affected areas of the State on 2.1.2008.

The State Government effected changes in the administrative set up, employed confidence building measures including camping of senior officers at site, deployment of police and central forces for patrolling, setting up of several Peace Committees, arresting accused persons, announcing relief and rehabilitation measures for the victims, etc. The Chief Minister of Orissa also toured the affected areas.

Major penalties against officers of Prasar Bharti

166. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has proposed major penalties in 2006 against former CEO, DDGs and other officers of Prasar Bharti;

(b) if so, details in this regard and action taken on the recommendations of CVC;

(c) whether it is a fact that the above officers with doubtful integrity and corruption charges are allowed to function on plum posts; and

(d) if so, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. The CVC had proposed major penalties against 10 officers of